

The North Beverly Environmental Action Committee

Dominic Manzoli

775-A Cabot Street, Beverly, Mass. 01915

~~Airport Site~~
~~Casco Chem~~
Vitale

October 17, 1997

Nancy Smith
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region one
J.F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, MA. 02203



SEMS DocID 605795

Re, Phase 1 Initial Site Investigation
Contamination Beverly Municipal Airport
Former Casco Chemical/ Nike Missile Site
Vitale Illegal Land-Fill Site
L.P. Henderson Road
Beverly, MA. 01915
MA. DEP Site Nos. 3-0230, 3-0231, and 3-0235
Dear Ms. Smith,

Your name appears in a document from Ransom Environmental Consultants to a Jerry McCall of the MA. Department of Environmental Protection, (DEP) Bureau of Waste Site Clean up. You are listed as a source of information for these three Toxic Sites listed above. These contaminated sites have been draining into the Wenham Lake Reservoir for 42 years. The Salem Beverly Water Supply Board claims no contaminants detected in the drinking water supply. We find it hard believe this is so, considering coal fly ash is deposited four feet deep 300 feet from shore. The E.P.A. report we recieved this year is the first acknowledgment that fly ash is detrimental to a drinking water supply. The Discharge from these sites has no where else to go but the water supply. Note the elevations on the drawing enclosed. The water board has carried out their tests at the delta of tributary, Airport Brook. At this point clean water from nearby residential Lords Hill dilutes the leachate flowing through the delta into the reservoir. In our letter to Ransom Environmental Consultants we hope to finally determine other paths water takes to the reservoir.

We filed a petition under MGL CH. 21 E Initiative #4 to become part of the clean up process. We have been ignored in the past, do to the politics of development and airport expansion. The Scope of Work (SOW) Phase 1 Initial Site investigation of Beverly Municipal Airport, Casco Chemical/ Army NIKE Site and the Vitale Illegal Land Fill all at Henderson Road Beverly MA. has been underway for 17 months. We retrieved this initial report through a D.E.P. file search. We have been doing this every few years in order to penetrate covert actions between State and City agencies, attempting to conceal the truth concerning contamination within the Wenham Lake Reservoir Aquifer. By law this report should have been made available to us. This summer four of us were asked to leave a meeting between the City of Beverly Mayor and representatives of D.E.P. at City Hall. The Mayor stated, it was not a public meeting.

It appears once again we are attempting remediation of these sites. However State and City government once again are cleverly omitting critical environmental areas, in order to justify industrial and Airport expansion.

1. The Airport sewerage sand filter beds? Raw untreated sewerage was discharged here (photo enclosed) for over 50 years. Chemical compounds were detected here by I.E.P. Inc. 1992 in a preliminary study. The sewer was recently diverted from the sand filters to a 45 year old open steel tank on the abandoned Army NIKE Site. There is no septic action. The City of Beverly

and the DEP refer to this open tank as a septic tank. The abandoned sand filters and contamination detected there, is now being ignored, in order to construct the Airport Industrial Connector Road (approved by state recently) through this area. (The state is also to contribute \$ 1,000,000.00 to construct this road.) The sand filter out flow is shown on the proponents plan as wetlands crossing number two. Our files contain photos and laboratory analysis paid for by residents, showing coliform and fecal bacteria flowing from these sand filters in 1985. This "fell on deaf ears" in City Government. **These sewerage sand filters must be included in the present Scope Of Work Phase 1 Initial Site Investigation now being carried out by the Ransom Environmental Consultants Inc. Hired by the City of Beverly.**

City and state government agencies have delayed connecting this airport to a municipal sewer for 20 years, waiting for the opportunity to include 200 acres of Industrial development not the 100 acres proposed on this sewer extension to be included with the proposed road. Again ignoring, that this area is historically the Wenham Lake Reservoir Aquifer.

The MA. D.E.P. has been fully aware of this contamination. Another document retrieved from D.E.P. file revealed this . The study by Camp Dresser & McKee in 1987 commissioned by the MA. Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, suggested the Airport be sewerd out of the Aquifer to the newly installed sewer at near by Cherry Hill Industrial Park.

2. There exists a 50 year old dump on the airport north of the G.T.E. hanger just out of sight of the airport service area. This dump overlooks a wetland at 80 feet of elevation. **This dump must be included in the present Scope Of Work.**

3. Vitale's third gravel pit has not been addressed. MA. Electric/ Filtek Site is Vitale overflow site no. two. The third overflow gravel pit is located south of Runway no. 34 just below Cherry Hill Industrial Park. In the vicinity of the proposed Industrial Connector Road. (Shown on USGS Topo map Enclosed) This pit, once full of water was filled for safety reasons. **This gravel pit must be included in the present Scope Of Work.** City officials will tell you this area does not drain into the reservoir. We recently had to invoke the public records Law in order to obtain a report the City of Beverly used to make this claim. It does not apply! We can now produce six documents that determine water from the Airport Industrial Connector Road area does flow eastward to the reservoir and will have a serious impact on the drinking water supply for 80,000 people.

The entire east side of Beverly Airport is within the Wenham Lake Reservoir Aquifer. City of Beverly and State of Massachusetts officials deny this favoring Industrial and Airport expansion over water protection.

We are once again invoking the State Public Records Law requesting another hidden report. The Tighe & Bond Environmental Study of the entire Beverly Airport. paid for by the City of Beverly June 18, 1989 at a cost of \$10,000.00. (News clipping enclosed.) We expect to find the sewerage sand filters and the 50 year old dump addressed here. This study was mandated by DEP in a letter to former City Mayor Monahan May 10, 1989. Only the Scope Of Work phase was carried out on this study as were other previous studies of contamination on the four Toxic Sites listed in your EPA circular listing.

which

We have "come full circle" on these issues, continually denying contamination exists here. The reason is always the same. The city zoned these watersheds I R (Light Industrial) and will not consider changing it. The state also wants the area for Industrial development. The obvious reason for the lack of State enforcement of environmental law within the Wenham Lake Reservoir Aquifer.

We have gone through the Scope Of Work phase several times by other environmental investigating firms in the last 20 years. Only to have the City of Beverly fail to follow up with funding for the remediation phase of these Toxic Sites. Once again there has been a lack of enforcement by the state of Massachusetts. The MA. Attorney Generals' office closed the two Vitale enforcement cases on April 15, 1980 (three letters enclosed) stating " these two cases no longer present a problem to Wenham Lake. Proposals for development began shortly afterwards. Since then close to 6,000 tons of contaminated waste was removed from the Filtek/ Ma. Electric site alone. This was not handled very well. After capping and grassing over this site, they had to return two more times to remove additional Cyanide bearing flyash. The DEP chose to relegate the responsibility of remediation to a Licensed Site Professional. Classifying the site Tier two rather than Tier one overseen directly by DEP. The DEP did not consider this public water supply important enough to assign DEP personnel to oversee the site. We believe the remaining three Toxic Sites should be classified Tier One.

City and State officials have allowed a water supply once famous for its purity to be diluted with chemicals. one can only wonder what future health statistics will show from this drinking water. our story will be recorded for future generations to read.

For the committee,

Dominic Manzoli
Dominic Manzoli

1-7-90

NORTH SHORE SUNDAY

Page 15

NORTH SHORTS

Seeking a solution to pollution

What's the biggest pollution threat to Wenham Lake?

Oh, there are plenty of good candidates. Start with the infamous Vitale dump site off Henderson Road, which has been the repository for tons of fly ash from the New England Power Company's Salem plant. Environmentalists consider the ash that has washed into the Wenham Lake bed

for years a major pollutant, though nobody knows for sure whether it significantly taints the area's drinking water ("Disputed ground," *Sunday*, Dec. 27, 1987).

Or, perhaps the biggest pollution culprit could be the Beverly Airport, the old Nike missile site, or the former Casco Chemical Company — the other three of four hazardous wastes sites already identified by state environmental officials.

There are all sorts of contaminants — PCBs, mercury, chlorinated solvents, cyanides, arsenic, chromium, lead and other pollutants to choose from in these areas.

But as to who is No. 1, Beverly officials say they would be hard pressed to answer, despite the tons of paper City Hall has generated on environmental problems in the watershed area for several years.

With something like a half million dollars already invested in studies dating back to the 1970s, how much more time and money do local and state officials need to spend before they know how to respond to what could be a multi-million clean-up problem?

Apparently a lot more. Stay tuned for the ultimate environmental impact study. And this one is going to cost a bundle.

"We're looking at another \$300,000

in studies before we know for sure," says Alan Taubert, Beverly's commissioner of public works.

What makes this study more special than others is that it should provide the first comprehensive look at environmental hot spots threatening the entire aquifer that feeds Wenham Lake, the chief drinking water source for more than 80,000 residents in Beverly and Salem.

Taubert says the city recently gave its consultant Tighe & Bond Consulting Engineers the green light — for a fee of \$9,700 — to prepare a scope of work for the type of study concerned citizens have been seeking for a number of years.

"In our opinion, a comprehensive study of the entire aquifer feeding the Beverly-Salem water supply is long overdue," members of the North Beverly Environmental Action Committee advised Mayor Jack Monahan in a Dec. 16, 1985 letter.

It has been the view of the group that various isolated studies — like the six independent ongoing reviews of suspected waste sites — are often done piecemeal and don't tell the whole story.

Taubert says he agrees with the citizens group, suggesting that sometimes there is fingerpointing by consultants

Continued on next page

at neighboring sites because the owners don't want to get blamed for the pollution.

So, why has it taken so long to consolidate studies?

"Four years ago, I suggested to the state that we combine these studies. But the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection would not allow us to make a comprehensive study until recently because the agency considered each of the sites to constitute separate enforcement actions," he says.

But Dominic Manzoli, a spokesman for the citizens group, doesn't have high expectations in the upcoming study.

"The latest report — for which the city paid \$10,000 — completely omits the three thousand gallons per day of discharge of untreated waste water into wetlands at the Beverly Airport," says Manzoli.

"It seems like the city is desperately trying to prove that this area does not have a hydrological connection with the aquifer. Unless a comprehensive study takes this into account, I think it's a waste of the city's money."

The North Beverly Environmental Action Committee

~~P.O. Box 8, Wenham, MA 01984~~

September 11, 1989

(508) 927-4662

REPORTS FROM D.E.P. FILES

1. FAA Environmental Assessment, Dufresne and Henry Inc.

400 Southborough Drive, South Portland, Maine 04106.

Airport Planner, Dena R. Allis, 207-775-3211

Field work done for Dufresne and Henry by I.E.P. Inc.

Consulting Environmental Scientists, Alton D. Stone, Hazardous
Waste Specialist. 6 Maple St. Box 780, Northborough, MA.

2. Soil Disposal Summary

G.T.E. Hanger

Beverly Airport

Prepared by Environmental Applications Inc.

Waltham MA. Dec. 1987

3. Metcalf And Eddy Contamination Evaluation at former NIKE Battery,
Beverly, MA. Submitted to Dept. of the Army.

Kansas City District Corps. Of Engineers.

700 Federal Building, Kansas City, Missouri. Dec. 1987

4. Casco Chemical Co. Site clean up by D.E.Q.E. Nov. 1984

Normandeau Report #1 Aug. 1986

Environmental Quality Assessment of the Beverly Airport/Wenham

5. Lake Watershed. Beverly, MA. Phase 1 Report

Prepared by Normandeau Associates Inc.

25 Nashua Rd. Bedford, New Hampshire, 03302

R-323 Aug. 1986

6. Normandeau Report #2 Project Operation Plan for the Vitale Site.
Beverly; MA. Oct. 15, 1987

Prepared by Normandeau Engineers Inc.

10 Ferry St. Box 7 Concord, New Hampshire, 03301

Robert Weimar Pres. 603-472-5191

7. Well Boring Logs and Location Map. For Kellerher Construction Co.
18 Acre Vitale Property on Henderson Rd. Beverly, MA.

July 25, 1986

8. Enpro Services 21E Report done for F.W. Orne

South of Henderson Rd. Beverly, MA.

Insert two studies by Haley + Aldridge - Filler/MA-Elect.

Gulf of Maine Research Center Inc. Environmental Consulting
Services. 27 Congress st. Salem, MA. 745-6618

9. 24 Glendale Rd. Rye, N.H. 603-430-8449

Report on Site Evaluation of the Burnham Land Trust Property
(21E) Cobot St. Beverly, MA. Sept. 10, 1986.

- 10 Watershed Sanitary Survey done for Salem & Beverly Water Supply Board. Final Report. Project Director, Allen Silboritz 245 4421 of Weston & Sampson Engineers Inc. Wakfield, MA.
- 11 M.A.P.C. Metropolitan Area Planning Council 1979
A Cooperate Land Use Proposal.
- 12 Summary of Test-Pit Investigation Results, Vitale Flyash Landfill, Beverly, MA. June 6, 1988
Normandeau Engineers Inc. 10 Ferry St. Box 7 Concord, N.H. 03301
- 13 Draft for Final Decision Relative to Vitale unassigned Refuse Disposal Facility. M.A. Dept. Public Health Oct. 20, 1975
Tentative Decision. May 22, 1975
- 14 Soil Gas Analyses Casco Chemical, and Water Sampling on Beverly Airport done by Dufsrne & Henry Inc. (I.E.P. Inc.)
1321 Washington Ave. Portland, ME. 04103
- 15 Summary of findings and Conclusions . Hazardous Materials Site Assessment. (21 E) Planned Airport Drive Subdivison
L.P. Henderson Rd. Beverly, MA. 01915 done by Enpro Services, Inc. For Filtration Technologies 12 Pine St. Swampscott, MA. 01907 Owner Mr. Frank W. Orne, Jr. 8 Fairview Rd. Marblehead, Ma. 01945.
- 16 D.E.P. Notice of Responsibility to Filtek Property L.P. Henderson Rd. Beverly, MA. (Planned Airport Drive Subdivision) May 8, 1989
(more than one)
- 17 Five Reports from D.E.P. Files on Beverly Airport Discharging Untreated waste water into the wetlands of the Bass River and the Wenham Lake Reservoir. R Brook
- 21 F.A.A. Grant Agreement to Beverly Airport Sept. 9, 1987
Project # 3-25-0006-04 Contract # FA-NE- 87-37
- M.A.P.C. North Shore Water Supply Study. Draft Summary. 1988
- 22 NITE/ARMY LIE not received 3-5-93 Not in files
- 23 Tighe + Bond study of whole Airport Never published "
(6-19-89)
- 24 US EPA study by Stone + Webster 3-29-96 Vitale Flyash pit report
Retrieved through DEP. file search 6-27-97
- 25 Ransom Inv. Consultants Inc Beverly Airport, Casco chemical / NITE
Vitale Flyash site May 1, 1996 Also retrieved through DEP. file Search
- 28 Add ^{four} ~~three~~ Vitale Flyash reports by Thornton of DEP.
29 Jan. 3, 1984 waste Dumping near Beverly Airport
Feb. 14, 1984 Vitale Fly-ash Investigation
May 1984 water Sampling at Vitale Fly-ash Pit
Nov. 25, 1985 Fly-ash Dump Site Investigation

Study of airport contamination to be reviewed

6-19-89 ←

By LISA KOSAN
Times staff

BEVERLY - The history of Beverly Municipal Airport, its tenants and potentially hazardous waste sites will be reviewed tomorrow night now that an initial environmental report is complete.

The report, prepared by Tighe and Bond for approximately \$10,000, will be on the 7 p.m. agenda of the Board of Aldermen's committee on public service and aid.

"I don't think the report is going to ease anybody's mind," said Ward 2 Alderman Russell Rollins. "The purpose though is to tell us how to approach and investigate the cleanup of the site in a common sense fashion."

Last summer, the state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering ordered a full environmental survey of the airport property and the several sites where hazardous materials are suspected.

"We knew there was contamination before we went in with the study," said Public Works Director Alan Taubert. "This is to minimize costs of a cleanup by pinpointing the problem spots."

Taubert said the cleanup is going to be expensive but could not estimate the cost.

Preliminary studies conducted previously at and near the airport by a private consultant indicated that ground water at the airport is contaminated as are areas on the Casco chemical and Nike missile sites.

Still, Taubert said last week that there were no real surprises in the report.

"The (Beverly/Salem) water board wells are still showing nothing," he said. "The ground water running under Route 97 (to Wenham Lake) has no evidence of contamination."

The report lists the use of air-

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We knew there was contamination before we went in with the study. This is to minimize costs of a cleanup by pinpointing the problem spots.

Tighe
+
Bond

- Public Works Director
Alan Taubert

”

Taken
from
Scrap-
book
NO. V
NB&AC.

port buildings and expansion of the property since the North Beverly air field was built in 1928. It lists chemicals and solvents used at the former Nike missile site that was run by the United States Army from 1956 to 1965.

"It's an interesting history of that whole area," Rollins said.

The report details septic systems, dump sites, the use of and disposal of nuclear materials and hazardous waste. It lists the sites of known underground fuel and propane tanks and outlines areas where tanks might be buried.

"There's no question there will be more studies up there," Rollins said. "You know that. You just hope you don't find any cancer-causing things."

Taubert said once the report is submitted, the Board of Aldermen will be asked to approve it and then fund further studies. He said the Airport Commission will probably be involved in the funding.

Once the report is presented at the alderman committee meeting, it will become public record and will be available for review at the clerk of committees office at City Hall.



TO COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
JOHN W. MC GORMACK STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, BOSTON 02108

FRANCIS X. BELLOTTI
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 25, 1980

Jerry McCall
Department of Environmental
Quality Engineering
Met. Boston/Northeast Regional Office
323 New Boston Street
Woburn, Massachusetts 01801

RE: D.E.QE. v. Steven Vitale
Michael Vitale v. D.E.Q.E..
Steven Vitale v. D.E.Q.E..
(re: flyash dump in Beverly)

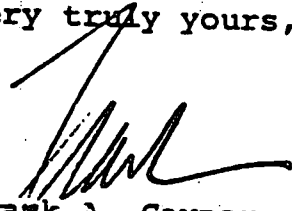
Jerry:

These cases have been kicking around for a long time. Last word from your office was that chlorides which were going to wash out had already done so, and that the flyash pile did not present any more problems. Can I close these cases?

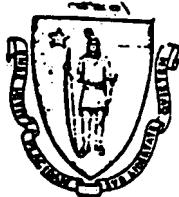
If not, what remains to be done? Unfortunately, nobody involved seems to have any money for remedial work, should it be called for.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,


Frank A. Gaynor, III
Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Protection Division


FAGIII/mkj



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
JOHN W. MC CORMACK STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, BOSTON 02108

FRANCIS X. BELLOTTI
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 11, 1980

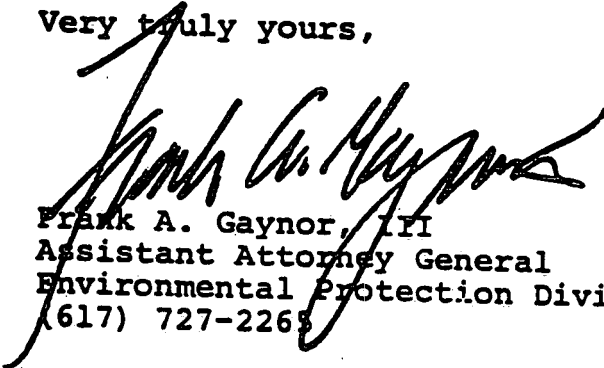
Anthony Cortese, Commissioner
Department of Environmental Quality Engineering
100 Cambridge Street, 20th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02202

RE: Michael Vitale v. Department of
Environmental Quality Engineering

Dear Dr. Cortese:

Please be advised that this action, which was a petition for judicial review of the Department's decision regarding the Vitale flyash dump in Beverly, has been dismissed for failure to prosecute.

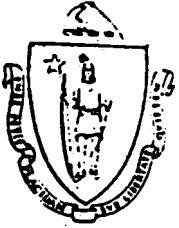
Very truly yours,


Frank A. Gaynor, III
Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Protection Division
(617) 727-2265

FAGIII/mkj

cc: Jerry McCall, DEQE/NE

file copy



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
JOHN W. MC CORMACK STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, BOSTON 02108

April 15, 1980

FRANCIS X. BELLOTTI
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Anthony Cortese, Commissioner
Department of Environmental
Quality Engineering
100 Cambridge Street, 20th Floor
Boston, MA 02202


RE: Department of Environmental Quality
Engineering v. Stephen Vitale
Stephen Vitale v. Department of
Environmental Quality Engineering

Dear Dr. Cortese:

Thomas Clougherty has informed this office that the
flyash pile in Beverly involved in these 2 cases no longer
presents a problem to Wenham Lake. We are, therefore,
closing our files in these matters.

As usual, it has been a pleasure serving your office.

Very truly yours,


Stephen M. Leonard, Chief
Environmental Protection Division

File

SML/FG/mkj

cc: Thomas Clougherty, DEQE/Met. Boston/NE

The North Beverly Environmental Action Committee

Airport Sep-17
Casco Chem
Vital e

Dominic Manzoli

775-A Cabot Street, Beverly, Mass. 01915

October 17, 1997

Mr Wayne C. Schanck
Project Manager
Ransom Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Browns Wharf
Newburyport, MA.
RE: Beverly MA. L.P. Henderson Road
MA D.E.P. Sites 3-0230, 3-0231, 3-0235

Dear Mr. Schanck,

copy

I am responding in behalf of the N.B.E.A.C. We wish to be kept informed of all activity on these three sites. As for the forth site we " have not closed the book" on that one yet. Will explain at another time. As I stated at the Public Involvement Plan meeting held on October 1, 1997, we wish to become part of the process of remediation. We have been ignored in the past.

Information concerning these Toxic Sites has been gathered from many sources. We would like to share our information and photos with you, in the effort to finally clean up these sites. There has been more than 25 studies carried out in this contaminated Aquifer. Enclosed is a drawing of elevations showing that contamination from these sites has been diluted by the drinking water supply for 80,000 people over the last 42 years.

In the process of reviewing your Scope of Work to date and the Final SI/SIP Package of these sites by Stone and Webster for the U.S. E.P.A., it is obvious we can supply additional information from our files. As stated at the meeting our files and books of pertinent news clippings go back 20 years.

Our latest D.E.P. file search revealed that some of their file data is missing.

Drawings 1 and 2 roughly shows why we must meet on these sites and review some details that city and state officials have been avoiding for years. This meeting must be between several residents and your study group. We do not intend to debate city and State officials in the field or create a political arena so close to election time. We are interested only in the remediation of these sites, not publicity.

Our greatest concern is the Tier Classification that will be placed on this project. We strongly believe these three sites must be classified as Tier one, directly overseen by the D.E.P., they are responsible for the neglect on these sites for too many years. We are not pleased with handling of the Filtek Site across the street. This was classified as Tier Two, overseen by a Licensed Site Professional.

There is no denying these four Toxic Sites flow into the reservoir. Your investigation, followed by remediation must be the last one.

We are looking forward to meeting with you on these sites soon.
For the committee,

Dominic Manzoli
Dominic Manzoli

cc, Nancy Smith Regional U.S. E.P.A.

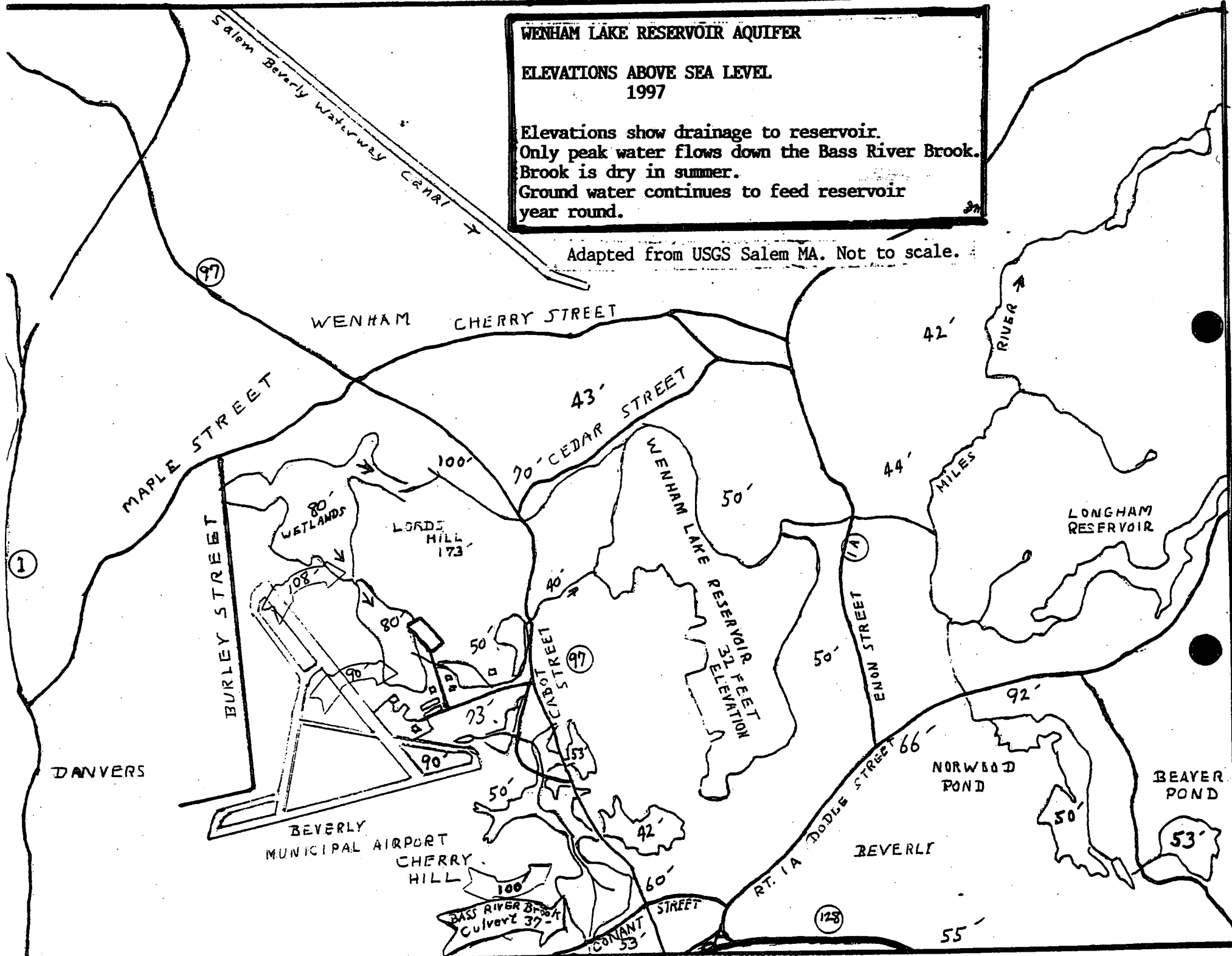
Faxed to Ransom, 10/20/1997
Hardcopy, diagrams, maps and photos to follow.

WENHAM LAKE RESERVOIR AQUIFER

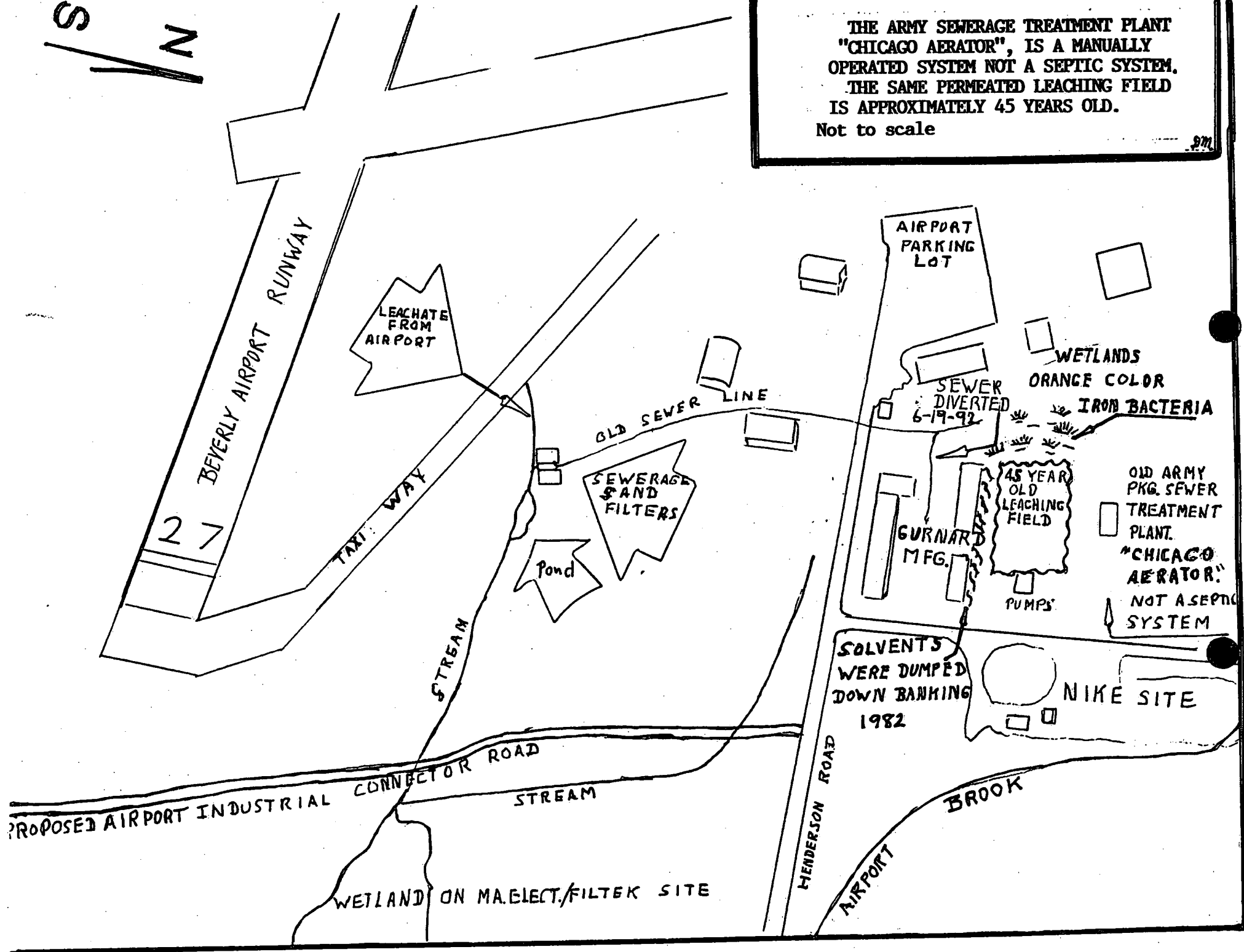
ELEVATIONS ABOVE SEA LEVEL
1997

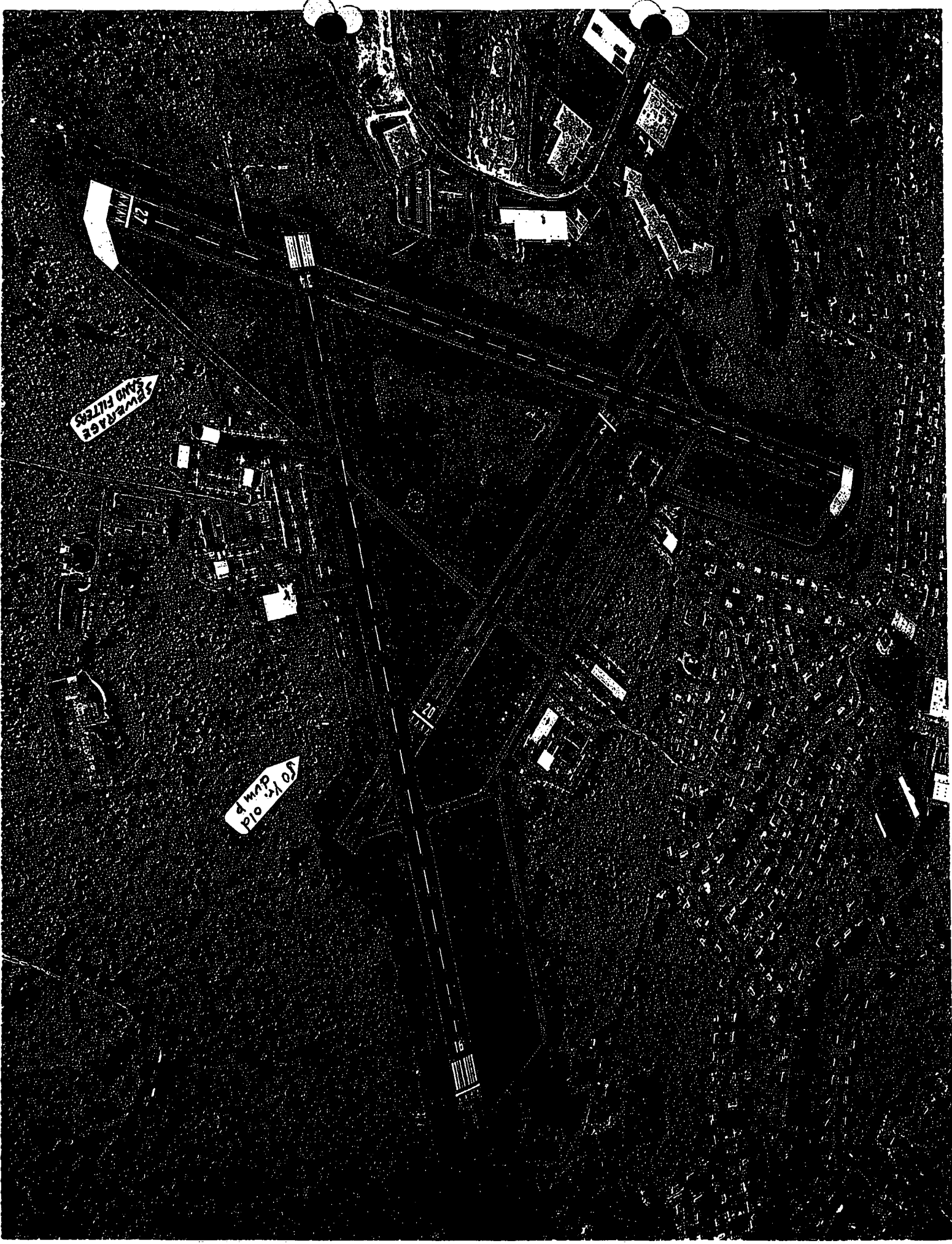
Elevations show drainage to reservoir.
Only peak water flows down the Bass River Brook.
Brook is dry in summer.
Ground water continues to feed reservoir
year round.

Adapted from USGS Salem MA. Not to scale.



THE ARMY SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT
"CHICAGO AERATOR", IS A MANUALLY
OPERATED SYSTEM NOT A SEPTIC SYSTEM.
THE SAME PERMEATED LEACHING FIELD
IS APPROXIMATELY 45 YEARS OLD.
Not to scale

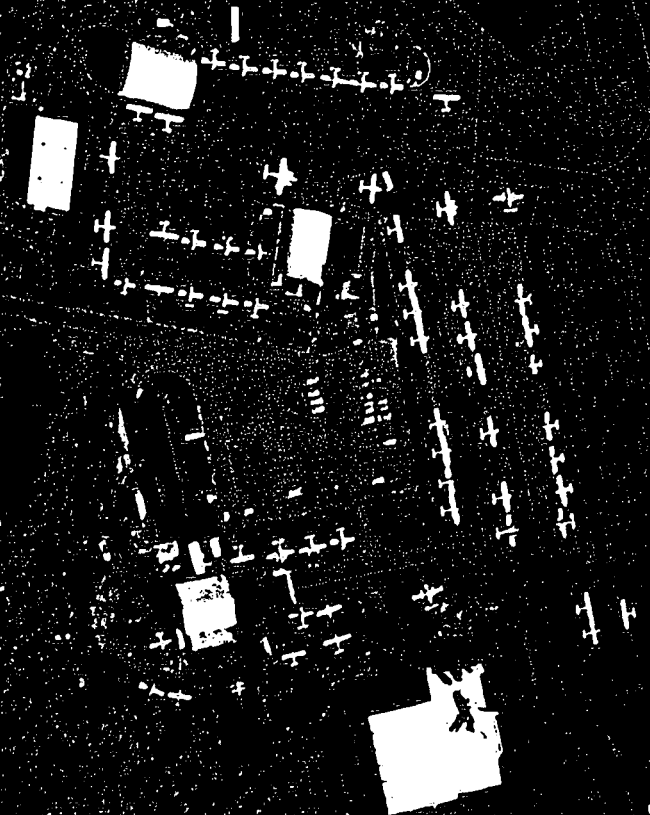




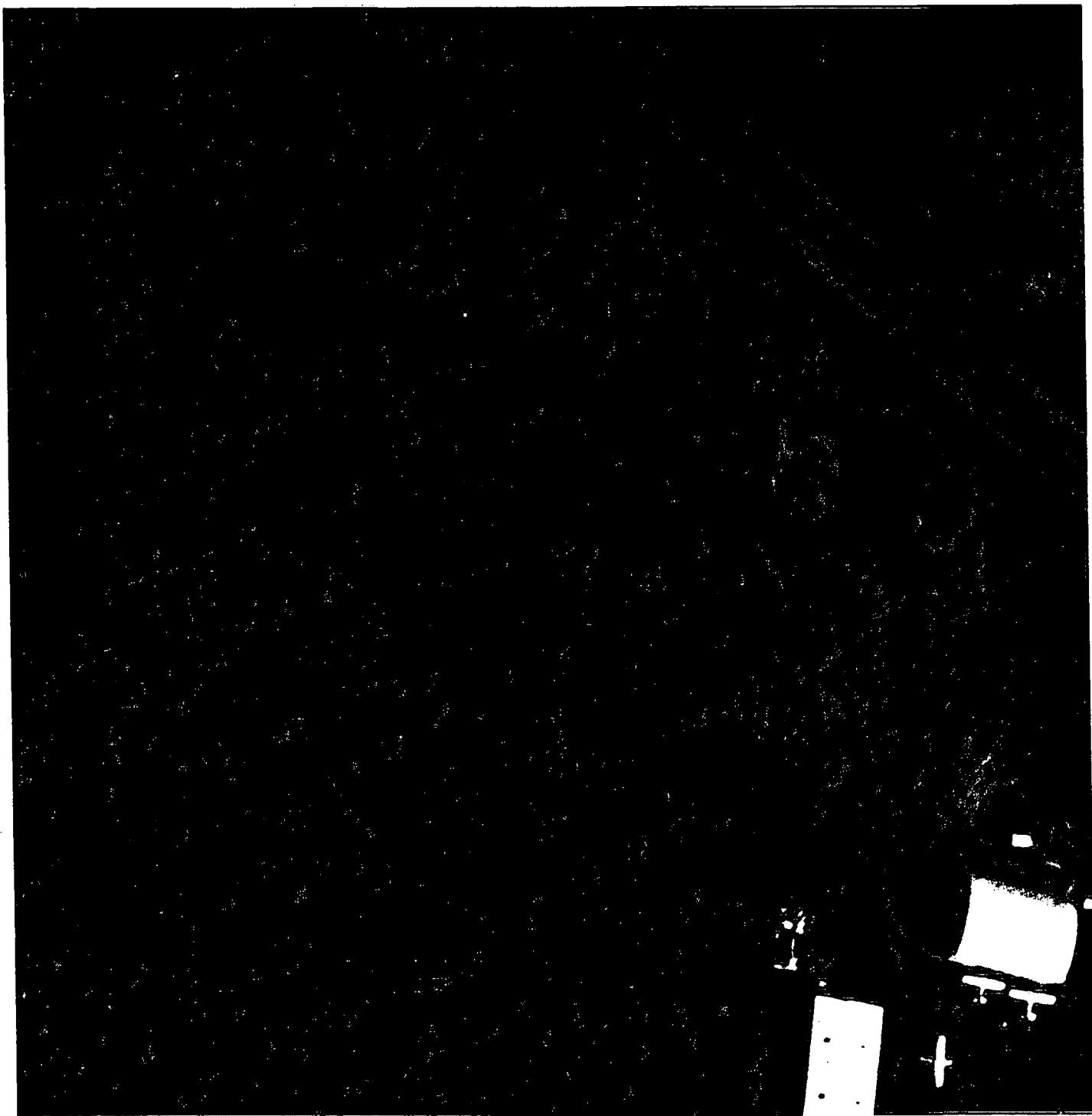
27

34

34



sewerage sand filter



WENHAM LAKE RESERVOIR
Beverly and Wenham, Massachusetts
1987

This is a public water supply serving 80,000 people of Solem, Beverly and parts of Wenham.

Shown in these photos is coal fly-ash four feet deep 300 feet from the mean level shore line." Coal fly-ash is classified as a solid waste that can contain hazardous materials, to be deposited only in a secure land-fill".
(MA. Department of Environmental Protection)

This is the northwest cove of the reservoir at the delta of Airport Brook, in the town of Wenham.

This coal fly-ash has been allowed to migrate into the reservoir for the last 42 years, without hay bails or a siltation fence.

The Vitale Illegal Fly-ash Land-fill is located less than 2,000 feet upstream. Beverly Airport is 3,000 feet upstream from this reservoir.

The Airport, the Vitale Illegal Land-fill, the Casco Chemical/ Abandoned Army NIKE Site and the Filtek/ MA. Electric Site, all drain into Airport Brook. All four of these Toxic Sites are listed in the U.S. E.P.A. Circulis Listings of contaminated sites.

Also the Airport has been discharging sewage into this stream without septic action for 50 years. In violation of MGL Title Five.

Why no remediation, all this time? Blame it all on the Politics of Industrial and Airport expansion.

1997 North Beverly Environmental Action Committee





1985

BEVERLY MUNICIPAL AIRPORT SEWERAGE SAND FILTERS

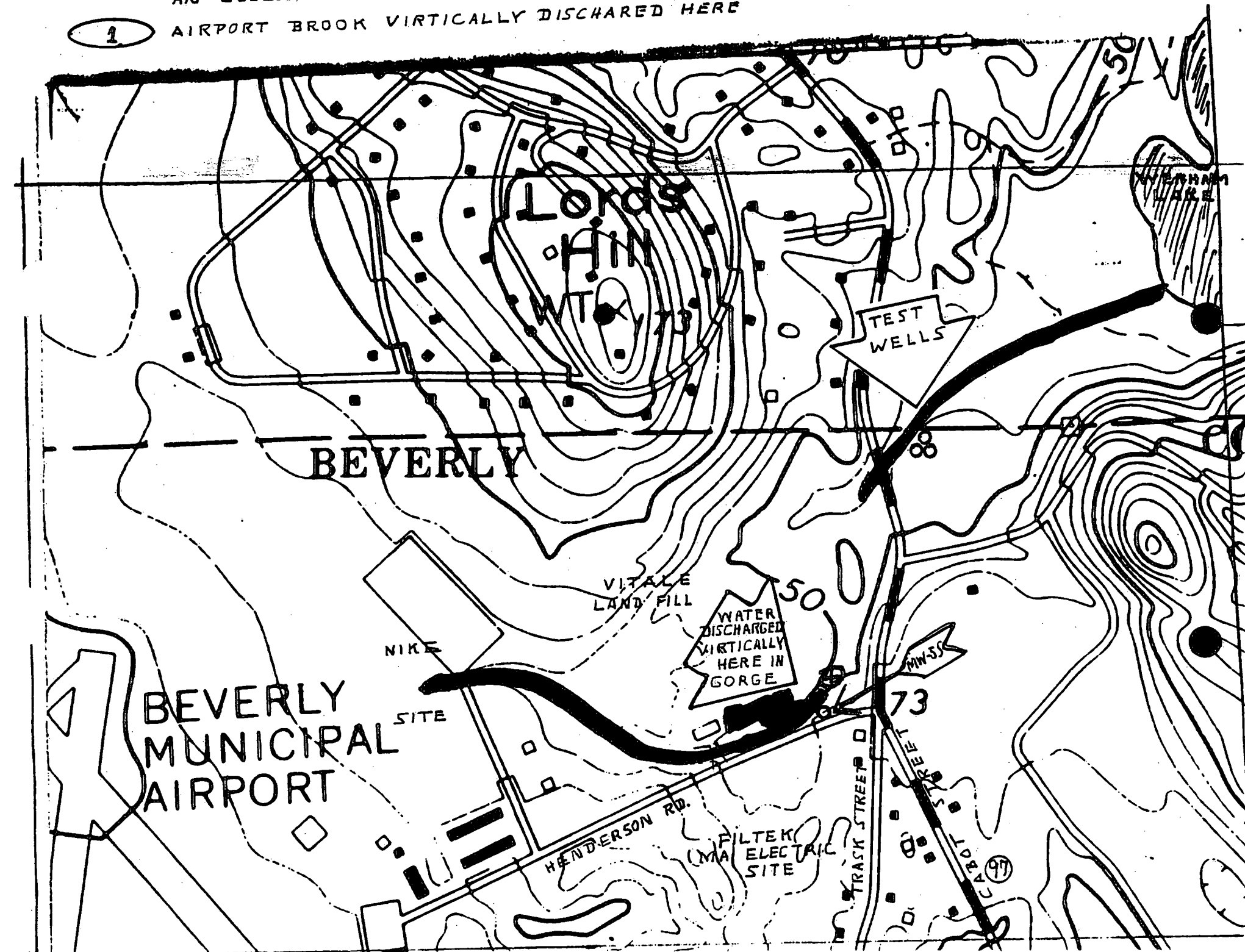
CUPPED OUT AREAS ABOVE ARE SO CALLED SAND FILTERS. WHERE RAW UNTREATED SEWAGE IS PIPED THROUGH AND ON TOP OF A MAN MADE PILE OF SAND. THEN TO THE POND SHOWN HERE, THE STREAM AND WETLANDS HERE ARE WETLANDS CROSSING NO.2 ON THE PROPOSED AIRPORT INDUSTRIAL CONNECTOR ROAD. DISCHARGING INTO THE WENHAM LAKE RESERVOIR AQUIFER FOR 50 YEARS. SEWAGE WAS DIVERTED AWAY FROM THESE SAND FILTERS JUNE 19, 1992 IN ANTICIPATION OF THE PROPOSED ROAD. THE CITY OF BEVERLY, THE MA. EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CHOSE TO OMIT THIS CONTAMINATED AREA FROM THE SCOPE OF WORK PRESENTLY UNDER WAY BY RANSOM ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS INC. PAID FOR BY THE CITY OF BEVERLY.

1997

AN OBSERVATION BY REEFER

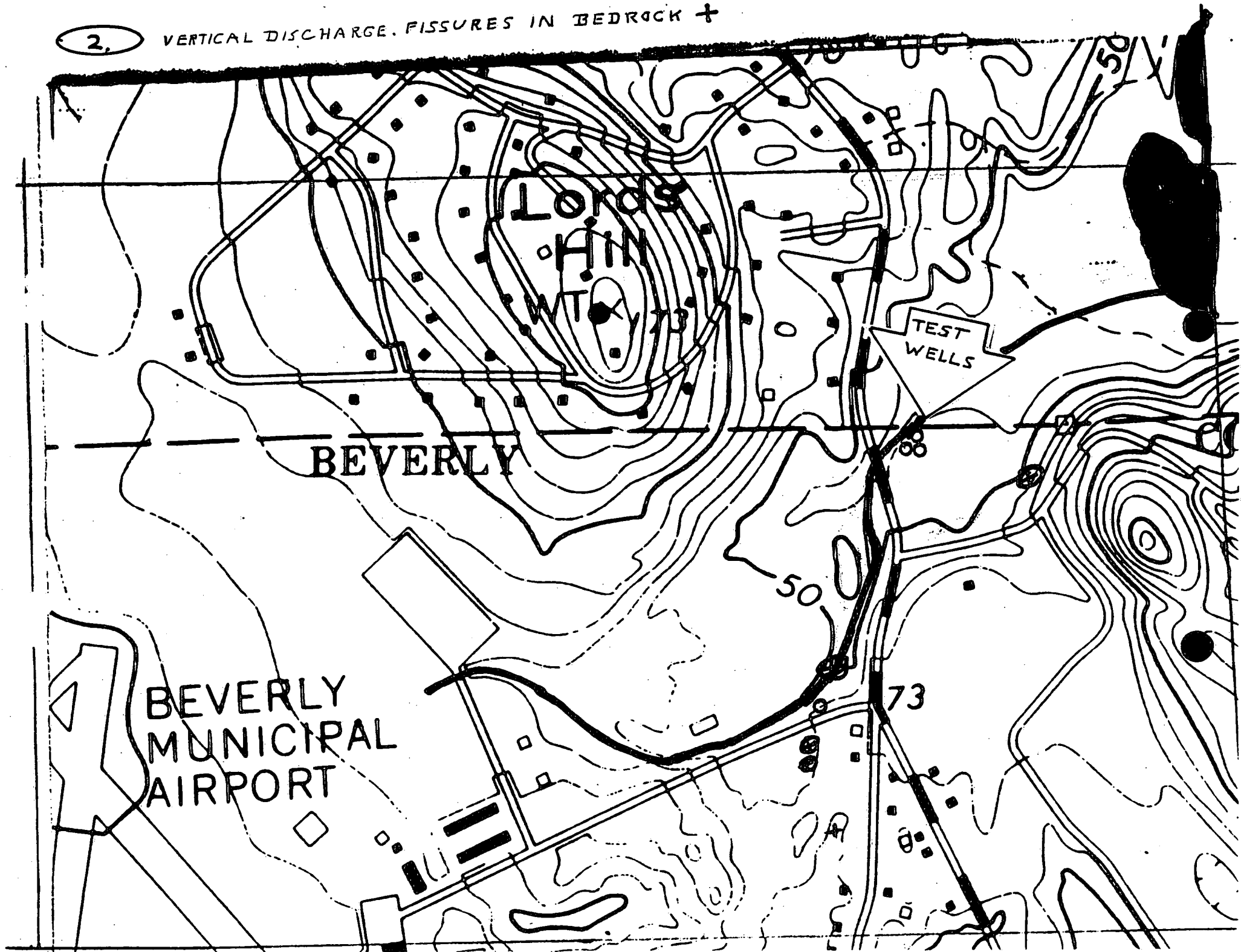
1

AIRPORT BROOK VIRTICALLY DISCHARGED HERE



2,

VERTICAL DISCHARGE. FISSURES IN BEDROCK +



1985

This is a detailed topographic map of the Wenham, Massachusetts area. The map features a grid system and contour lines indicating elevation. Key locations and features include:

- Wenham Lake**: A large body of water in the center of the map.
- Wenham**: The town name, located near the center.
- South Hamilton**: Located to the northeast of Wenham.
- North Beverly**: Located to the southeast of Wenham.
- Beverly Municipal Airport**: Located south of Wenham, marked with a large 'X' and an arrow pointing to 'Mass Electric Files'.
- Pleasant Pond**: Located to the north of Wenham.
- Longham Reservoir**: Located to the east of Wenham.
- Beaver Pond**: Located to the southeast of Wenham.
- Interchange**: Located near North Beverly.
- Proposed New Road**: Indicated by an arrow pointing to a road near the airport.
- Mass Electric Files**: Indicated by an arrow pointing to a location near the airport.
- Wenham Lake**: A large body of water in the center of the map.
- Wenham**: The town name, located near the center.
- South Hamilton**: Located to the northeast of Wenham.
- North Beverly**: Located to the southeast of Wenham.
- Beverly Municipal Airport**: Located south of Wenham, marked with a large 'X' and an arrow pointing to 'Mass Electric Files'.
- Pleasant Pond**: Located to the north of Wenham.
- Longham Reservoir**: Located to the east of Wenham.
- Beaver Pond**: Located to the southeast of Wenham.
- Interchange**: Located near North Beverly.
- Proposed New Road**: Indicated by an arrow pointing to a road near the airport.
- Mass Electric Files**: Indicated by an arrow pointing to a location near the airport.

Vitales three gravel pits

City moves closer to water study grant

JUL 19 1991

By KELLEY BOUCHARD
Times staff

BEVERLY - City officials learned yesterday they have been invited to submit a full proposal to a state grant program that could fund a comprehensive study of the Bass River and Wenham Lake watershed.

If the city makes it through the next step in the application process, it could receive up to \$250,000 in federal funds to conduct an independent study of local water resources.

Diane Gould of the Massachusetts Bay Program told City Planning Director Tina Cassidy that the city will be expected to submit a detailed grant proposal for the water resource study by Sept. 1.

"I'm going to have to get cracking," Cassidy said after hearing the news. "We're going to have to put together a much more detailed proposal than the one that got us

this far."

Cassidy now has less than two months to flesh out the 3½-page pre-proposal she submitted to the grant program by the July 1 deadline. She also must win City Hall support to provide matching funds if the grant comes through.

"So far, so good," Cassidy said. "But this isn't going to be a freebie. The city is going to have to pitch in."

Cassidy said the mayor and aldermen would have to agree to match the grant funds with an equal financial contribution, the commitment of in-kind services or a combination of both.

The grant program, which is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is designed to develop a comprehensive conservation and management plan for Massachusetts bays and estuaries.

A segment of the grant program, called the "mini-bays program," will handle problems in waterways feeding the state's bays to

reduce pollutants and improve habitats.

Gould told Cassidy that the grant program received 17 applications, but that only about half of them were invited to submit detailed proposals in the second round of the application process.

Cassidy said the grant program will likely fund three projects throughout the state, resulting in annual awards of \$30,000 to \$50,000 to each project for the next five years.

According to Cassidy's pre-proposal, "The coastal resources for which Beverly is seeking grant funding directly affect both the ecosystem and public health of the Salem Sound embayment."

Cassidy said the grant would be used to assess the level of contamination in the Bass River and prepare an action plan to eliminate past and future threats this contamination may pose to the Salem Sound.

The grant also would be used to delineate the boundaries of the

Bass River watershed, including Wenham Lake; and to implement a land acquisition and protection plan around the lake, including a public awareness campaign.

Planning Board member Marguerite Coughlin, who has been pushing for an independent study of the city's water resources, discovered the possible funding source.

"I'm thrilled," Coughlin said yesterday. "It's about time. After five years of talking about it, we're finally close to doing something."

Coughlin wants the study to satisfy recent debate over whether the watershed of Wenham Lake - which supplies water to residents in this city and Salem - is connected to surrounding ponds and rivers.

Cassidy was in the process of investigating various state, federal and private grant funding sources to pay for such a study, but tight budget times had caused her to come up empty handed.

DEC 12 1991

BEVERLY

MASSACHUSETTS THEATRE.

Airport Industrial Road City missed deadline for watershed grant

By KELLEY BOUCHARD
Times staff

BEVERLY - City Planning Director Tina Cassidy said yesterday the city recently missed out on a \$250,000 state grant to study the Bass River and the Wenham Lake watershed because the application was filed late.

Cassidy said the application was due at the state Division of Coastal Zone Management in Boston on Friday, Sept. 6, at 5 p.m., but it didn't arrive until Monday, Sept. 9, at 9:30 a.m.

Although CZM began the grant review process on Monday, the city's application was disqualified, despite a letter of appeal that ex-

plained extenuating circumstances for being late, Cassidy said.

"They felt they had to follow the guidelines of the grant selection process," Cassidy said.

However, even if the city's application had been on time, CZM officials said it wasn't good enough to beat the proposal that won the five-year grant for the North Shore region, Cassidy said.

The winning proposal came from the Massachusetts Audubon: North Shore and a private oceanographic research organization to find the source of shellfish bed pollution along Plum Island Sound.

The CZM mini-bays grant program, which is aimed at finding pollution problems in waterways

feeding the state's bays, funded only three five-year studies throughout the commonwealth this year.

While CZM officials told Cassidy the city's application did not meet the specifications of the mini-bays grant program, they agreed to meet with her within the next month to help find alternative funding sources.

Cassidy said she completed the city's application by Tuesday, Sept. 3, but alderman, who were in summer recess, approved the application on Thursday afternoon, Sept. 5.

Cassidy said the alderman, who must review all grant applications, used their "verbal authorization" method of voting by telephone,

which last week was determined to be a violation of the Open Meeting Law.

Cassidy attempted to deliver the grant application by hand late day afternoon, Sept. 6, but her car got a flat tire in Saugus and she knew she would be late by the time it was repaired.

Instead, Cassidy returned to Beverly and sent the grant application by overnight mail to make sure the city's proposal reached the CZM office on the following Monday.

In retrospect, Cassidy said, she probably should have faxed the application to CZM that Friday, but she didn't think of it in the midst of a frantic afternoon.

Beverly

Decontamination plan gets hearing

By JOANNE MENESALE
News staff

BEVERLY — The public will get a chance to comment on the city's plans to clean three sites near the Beverly Airport of any environmental contamination.

The first of what are called "Public Involvement Process" or PIP meetings on the three sites will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 1, at the Second Congregational Church, Mayor William Scanlon has announced.

The city has been working with the consultant Ransom Engineering and the state Department of Environmental Protection to come up with an acceptable plan for cleaning the city-owned sites.

Ransom Engineering has made an assessment of the three — the so-called Vitale fly ash property,

the former Casco Chemical Co. site and the former Nike Missile site — for possible environmental contamination.

"In a certain sense it's a beginning," Scanlon said. The potential plan for clean-up will now be unveiled and the public will have the chance to comment on it, he said.

A group of citizens had gone to the mayor's office last spring when city officials were meeting with the consultants and state officials, asking to be included in the process.

A state Department of Environmental Protection official promised there would be an opportunity for public input.

The citizens are concerned that nearby Wenham Lake, which is the drinking supply for Beverly and Salem, could be threatened with contamination from the sites

which are under a cleanup order from DEP.

Scanlon said now is the time for public comment. "This is a case where we have something to show ... This is a real opportunity to make sure people's concerns get factored into the puzzle," he said.

The city will unveil a proposal for cleanup Wednesday night, allowing the public to comment, he said.

Scanlon invited all interested citizens to attend the meeting. In addition to people who needed to be notified under the law, Scanlon said he sent invitations to at least 250 residents who live in the area around the airport to attend.

The meeting will be conducted by Ransom Engineering and the Department of Environmental Protection.

Cleanup of the three properties

has been on the city's agenda for more than a decade. The engineers were hired to assess the problems, and decide how to correct them efficiently and cost-effectively.

The three sites are:

- The so-called Vitale site, about 18 acres of land which was originally mined for sand and gravel and was later filled with fly ash from the Salem power plant. Fly ash is airborne material from an incinerator.

- The former Nike missile site off Henderson Road was used by the military from 1954 to 1962. Material used and disposed of at Nike sites generally include liquid fuels, solvents, motor oil and heating oil, according to a report done on the site.

- The former Casco Chemical site, which has been under cleanup orders from the state since 1985.

Assessment continues on contaminated land

By JOANNE MENESALE
News staff

10-8-97

BEVERLY — The city expects to spend about \$130,000 to continue to assess the extent of any environmental contamination on 39 acres of land near Beverly Airport.

Plans to install monitoring wells on the three sites were unveiled in a public meeting last week.

About 65 people attended the meeting at the Second Congregational Church to listen to a city consultant and the state Department of Environmental Protection. Those officials updated people about initial sampling that has taken place and described plans for more monitoring.

"We've never done an in-depth assessment," said Mayor William Scanlon, who has been working with the state DEP to solve problems that in some cases date back to the mid-1980s.

"This has been hanging around forever. We're trying to solve it once and for all," he said.

The mayor said the city will spend about \$130,000 before the project is finished to try and assess those environmental problems.

The three sites under investigation are the Beverly Airport's General Aviation Services site, the former Casco Chemical/Nike Missile site and the so-called Vitale site.

Engineering funds in last year's and the current year's budget will pay for the monitoring work. The monitoring wells could be installed during the month of November, he

said.

The community meeting lasted about two hours and included an explanation of what work has already been done on the sites. Ransom Engineering, hired by the city as a consultant, has been working with the DEP for months to come up with a scope of work that the state agency will approve.

The city has little say in what will be done, except that it will pay for the work, Scanlon said.

The actual environmental clean-up depends on what is found in the assessment phase, he said. Following this phase, the next step would be deciding how to remedy the problem, he said.

Of particular concern to residents is the proximity of the contaminated land to nearby Wenham Lake, which serves as a drinking supply for Beverly and Salem.

Thomas Knowlton, superintendent of the Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board, attended the meeting, Scanlon said. "Mr. Knowlton made it clear that they do regular testing and there is absolutely no evidence of anything harmful coming from any of these sites to Wenham Lake," Scanlon said.

All three sites are north of Henderson Road, which leads into Beverly Airport. All three properties have nothing to do with plans to build a new road near the airport, which will open up about 100 acres of industrially zoned land for development, he said. That development would take place on the opposite side of Henderson Road.

The North Beverly Environmental Action Committee

Dominic Manzoli

775-A Cabot Street, Beverly, Mass. 01915

Airport Septic
Casco Chem
Vitale

copy

October 10, 1997

Frank J. Killilea P.E. Director of Engineering City of Beverly MA.
City Hall 191 Cabot Street Beverly MA. 01915

Dear Mr. Killilea,

Not having received a reply to our letter to you dated September 26, 1997, We are again requesting in writing the opportunity to view and copy a report that is missing from the City of Beverly files. This Invironmental study of contamination on the Beverly Municipal Airport was presented to the City Board of Aldermen at their meeting June 20, 1989. I refer to the enclosed news clipping " Report: 19 potentially hazardous sites near airport". This study was carried out for the City at a cost of \$10,000 to be followed by an additional study to take another nine months and an additional \$ 75,000.

This report was not available when I requested it in person from the city Engineering office and the Airport Managers office.

We request this response in writing.

For the committee,

Dominic Manzoli
Dominic Manzoli

cc:

Not received to date

10-27-97

Beverly Airport Commission
Robert Farmer, Chairmen
John Mountan Field
L.P.Henderson Road
Beverly, MA. 01915

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Attorney General
Ann Burwick Chief Invironmental Protection Division
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA. 02408- 1994

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin Secretary of the Commonwealth
Public Records Division
One Ashburton Place 17th Floor
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Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Secretary Trudy Cox M.E.P.A. Unit
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA. 02202

BEVERLY

Report: 19 potentially hazardous sites near airport

By JOHN MOONEY
Times staff

BEVERLY - A much-awaited environmental report has identified 19 sites of "known or potential sources of contamination" on North Beverly land around the municipal airport, but its author also stressed far more study is needed before determining the extent or even existence of dangers.

The further study - which would preclude any decisions on a possible clean-up - would likely require another nine months and cost the city another \$75,000.

The initial findings came in a \$10,000 environmental report presented to the Board of Aldermen last night on the con-

troversial watershed area near the Wenham Lake reservoir.

The state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering in 1988 ordered the report and subsequent study, citing fears about potential contamination of the lake, which is the primary water supply of Beverly and Salem.

Officials have said no contamination beyond trace levels has yet been found in the lake.

The inch-thick report focused on the environmental histories of several properties in the 500-acre area surrounding Henderson Road, including Beverly Airport itself, the former Nike missile site, the Casco Chemical Co. property, and the former Vitale Construction Co. dumpsite.

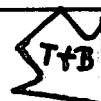
“

There are bits and pieces of confirmed contamination, but the rest is identified sources that may or may not (be a problem).

”

- Consultant Michael Parsons

In those histories, the report said it



found documented evidence of past chemical or other waste disposal on several properties.

But only further study, including geophysical surveys and monitoring wells, would be able to confirm such evidence and determine its dangers, said consultant Michael Parsons of Tighe & Bond.

"I stress the word potential," Parsons said. "There are bits and pieces of confirmed contamination, but the rest is identified sources that may or may not (be a problem)."

Still, officials have said the histories alone are compelling.

One such property of concern is the Gurnhard Manufacturing plant just off Henderson Road.

"Prior to 1962, waste oil and solvents

were reportedly disposed on site by dumping the products down the north bank behind the building," the report said, adding the bank leads to leaching fields and wetlands.

Another is the Casco site, which has been the subject of considerable debate and study already.

The DEQE in 1985 ordered the site's preliminary clean-up, leading to the removal of several chemical drums.

The report indicated more work may be needed.

"In a visit in February, 1989, of the former storage and maintenance buildings, a strong pungent odor was detected and interpreted as a chemical or pesticide," the report said.

